



MEMO

TO: West Lafayette Parks and Recreation Board

FROM: Kathy Lozano – Parks Superintendent

DATE: Monday, October 18, 2021

SUBJECT: West Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department Report

Below is a summary of the progress department staff has made during the months of September-October.

PARKS:

Shelters can be reserved through the last day of the season, Sunday, October 31, 2021 online at [Catalog - City of West Lafayette Parks & Recreation \(rec1.com\)](https://rec1.com)

PROGRAMS:

West Lafayette Parks and Recreation programs and activities are in the process of a slow opening – some activities have returned to the Margerum City Hall Community space. Several Art classes are in full swing. Ballroom Dance has also returned to the Margerum City Hall.

Lilly Nature Center/Celery Bog:

Lilly Nature Center re-opened July 7, 2021 after a 16-month hiatus for COVID-19. The Lilly Nature Center has averaged over 50 visitors daily ever since. Please refer to our website for a list of programs and hours.

Activity has continued in the Celery Bog itself:

- Doubled the size of the current Rain Garden with the assistance of a Purdue environmental class. Utilized a Purdue Student Learning Grant to purchase 200 plants and better soil.



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- Trained three new volunteers in the last 3 weeks.
- Worked with three volunteer groups to spread wood chips on trails and perform other improvement projects.

Dan serves on the Planning Committee for the 2021 Indiana Parks & Recreation Association Conference that will take place the first week of November.

Wellness Center:

The West Lafayette Wellness Center is open and is adding to its program offerings every day. Membership Sales are brisk. Please consider becoming a member!

Apply online at: [Catalog - City of West Lafayette Parks & Recreation \(rec1.com\)](https://rec1.com)



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Wellness Center Monthly Report October 2021

Category	Month Prior (August)	YTD	Notes
Total Active Membership Units	1,455	1,405	Total membership increase=50
Total Renew Active Members	61	51	Increase=10
Total Scans	8992	71402	
Total Active Family Membership Units	670	651	Total active family membership units increase =19
Total Active Members	4219	3896	Increase=350

Accomplishments:

In October, the West Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting our first annual Fall Festival at the Wellness Center. Participants will be able to enjoy Trick or Treating on the Trails, bounce houses, games, and a variety of other fun activities. Currently, the Department is partnering with over 30 local businesses to make this event possible.

Staff Highlight:

Abby Ballentine and Kristin Hopper serve as the Wellness Center's Clubhouse Shift Leaders, with both bringing many years of experience both in childcare facilities and as mothers. Abby's background in daycare management, combined with Kristin's background in homeschooling and childcare creates the perfect combination for success. Since beginning as shift leaders, Abby and Kristin have worked to create a structured and well-rounded experience, for both children and members, and to also incorporate monthly themed activities in the Clubhouse.



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Now Hiring:

Wellness Center continues to seek staff members to work part time in the following areas: Custodians, Lifeguards, Swim Instructors, Water Safety, Water Exercise, Group Exercise Instructors, Personal Trainers, Fitness Coaches, Front Desk, Housekeeping, Childcare and many more.

Apply online at: [Employment opportunities \(in.gov\)](https://www.in.gov/employment)

MUNICIPAL POOL – Closed for the season!

RIVERSIDE SKATING CENTER: The Riverside Skating Center will open November 26, 2021 for the season, weather permitting. Hiring has begun – apply online at: [Employment opportunities \(in.gov\)](https://www.in.gov/employment)

PLAYGROUNDS: Open

DOG PARK:

Dog Park at Happy Hollow is a big success. Dogs from all over the City are enjoying the amenities and being free inside the fence. Coming the first two weeks of November will be two ADA compliant benches thanks to the efforts of Gold Star Girl Scout, Lauren Kish. Lauren raised over \$24,000 to facilitate the addition of accessible swings in all our parks, automatic door opener for the Lilly Nature Center and benches for the Dog Park. Thank you, Lauren! Congratulations for achieving Gold Star status!

PARK MAINTENANCE:

Keeping our parks clean and attractive takes hard work and diligence. Aside from normal activities like mowing, cleaning, and mulching, our Parks Department accomplished the following list of projects in the past month:

- Move to the new parks barn
- Redevelopment of the Margerum Fountain including sandblasting, painting, new lighting, and new landscaping
- Begin opening process for the Riverside Skating Center
- Begin fall clean up
- Hazardous tree removal
- Equipment and vehicle inventory
- Prep equipment for winter



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COMMUNITY FORESTRY AND GREENSPACE:

- 37 Street trees were inspected in the month of August
 - **26** trees were submitted for removal
 - Total trees removed in 2021: **52**
 - **11** invasive callery pear were removed at Margerum Fountain at Tapawingo Park. Landscape will be updated in October.
- Street tree inventory update has reached 50% complete
 - Inventorying trees within public rights-of-way and specimen trees within Park properties
 - All inventory work will be completed by the end of October 2021
 - Results are visible on TreePlotter PARKS site here: <https://pg-cloud.com/WestLafayetteIN>
 - INDNR Community and Urban Forestry Assistance Grant reimbursement report will be submitted in October
- West Lafayette Tree Friends Update:
 - WLTF are developing their by-laws, in accordance to their adopted Strategic Plan document. To view their Strategic plan, visit: <https://wltreefriends.files.wordpress.com/2021/08/wltf-strategic-plan-final.pdf>
 - 30-40-50 Campaign to fundraise for a Municipal nursery is going well. Fundraising committee have identified grants to aid in construction of nursery in 2022.
 - Operation Releaf-joint WLTF and City tree planting program- fall tree locations are being finalized. If residents would like a tree for their property, in the public right-of-way, contact Bryce Patz at bpatz@westlafayette.in.gov
 - Fall pruning schedule is set. City Arborist and WLTF will begin their weekly pruning on October 8th through November 12th. Anyone is welcome!
 - WLTF meet second Tuesday of each month at noon. Everyone is welcome! Contact bpatz@westlafayette.in.gov or chair@wltreefriends.org for information.

CC: Greg Mitchell, Kevin Noe, Dan Dunten, John Muller, Bryce Patz